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Date: December 13, 2007

Patent 0-05-204 – 12514/US/2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Sonnenschein
Serial no.: 10/036,171
Filing date: December 31, 2001
Title: Ultrasonic Positioning
Examiner: Leubecker
Art Unit: 3739

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

After-Final Response and Amendment

This response is in reply to the final office action mailed on October 18, 2007.

Many claims have been amended, withdrawn or cancelled. No new features are being claimed. In particular,

- Claims 121,136,139,143,146-148,150-155, and 160 have been amended according to the examiner's suggestions; and
- Claim 76 has been amended to more clearly define the invention by specifically stating the endoscope system comprises an articulation system and a system for measuring the distance between and relative alignment of two objects located on the endoscope on opposite sides of the endoscope.

The examiner rejected some of the prior claims as being anticipated by Haynes (U.S. Patent no. 4,805,453). The applicant respectfully requests the examiner reconsider that rejection in view of the claim 76 amendment and Haynes' disclosure in view of the following reasons:

- Haynes clearly describes a system that is mounted on a rigid rod. Hayne's system is one-dimensional in that it is able to measure distance along the length of the rod only.

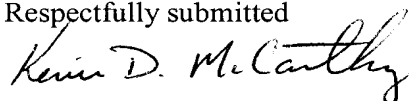
- In contrast, the present invention's system can measure the actual distance between and the relative alignment of the objects in three dimensional space.

- Hayne's measuring device of Haynes does not comprise one of the principal features of the present invention, *i.e.*, an articulation section.

For at least these reasons Haynes, in the applicant's opinion, does not anticipate the present claimed invention.

In view of the above statements and the attached claim amendments it is believed these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted



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